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6/17/98

## OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2005/06/09 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100220018-5

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DATE: 4 MAR 79

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INSTEN NO: UN-57

SUBJECT: BAHR'S TALKS IN MOSCOW

WEST GERMAN MINISTER BAHR, WHO ARRIVED IN MOSCOW ON FEBRUARY 27, DOES NOT SEEM TO BE MAKING MUCH PROGRESS IN HIS TALKS ~~DISCUSSED~~ WITH SOVIET LEADERS. THE MAIN TOPIC OF CONTENTION IS WEST GERMANY'S PLAN TO OPEN A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN WEST BERLIN. THE SOVIETS CLAIM THAT THIS WOULD BE A VIOLATION OF THE 1973 QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON BERLIN AND ARGUE THAT THE OFFICE MIGHT BE A PRECURSOR OF A VASTLY EXPANDED FEDERAL GERMAN PRESENCE IN THE CITY.

4 BAHR'S INITIAL TALKS WITH BREZHNEV AND FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV WERE FRANK, AND NEITHER SIDE GAVE ANY GROUND. ACCORDING TO THE WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW, BAHR RAISED THE PROSPECT THAT BRANDT'S PROJECTED TRIP TO THE USSR COULD BE

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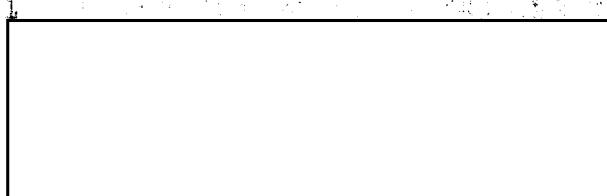
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JEOPARDIZED IF THE DISCUSSION OF WHICH TWO TO REVERT TO JEOPARDIZE ONE." THE WEST GERMANS BELIEVE THAT NO REAL PROGRESS CAN BE MADE UNTIL FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO RETURNS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THEREFORE PROBABLY REPAIRED TO MOSCOW DURING THIS.

A SUGGESTION BY ONE OF BREZNEV'S CLOSE ADVISORS THAT THE WORD "FEDERAL" COULD BE REMOVED FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE'S TITLE PROVIDES A HINT THAT THE SOVIETS ARE STILL INTERESTED IN PREDATING A FACE-SAVING COMPROMISE.

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